



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS FOR METH CONSPIRACY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mexican national living in Joplin, Mo., was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a methamphetamine conspiracy.

**Juan G. Limon-Gonzalez**, 31, a Mexican national living in Joplin, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to 12 years in federal prison without parole.

On June 15, 2005, **Limon-Gonzalez** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Limon-Gonzalez** admitted that he conspired with others to distribute between 50 and 200 grams of methamphetamine between as early as Nov. 11, 2003, and March 4, 2005, in Jasper County, Mo.

**Limon-Gonzalez** also pleaded guilty to distributing one ounce of methamphetamine to an undercover office for \$1,500 on March 2, 2005. At the time of the transaction, **Limon-Gonzalez** also admitted that he possessed a Smith and Wesson .357-caliber pistol, Graves said.

**“Limon-Gonzalez** pointed the unloaded firearm at the undercover officer and pulled the trigger,” Graves said. “The officer did not know if the firearm was loaded or not.”

At the time, **Limon-Gonzalez** told the officer, “This is what happens if anybody messes with me or anything else.”

**Limon-Gonzalez** also pleaded guilty to illegally re-entering the United States on March 4, 2005, after having been previously deported in 1996.

A second co-defendant also has pleaded guilty in this case.

On June 16, 2005, **James Scott Powers**, 39, of Joplin, pleaded guilty to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. By pleading guilty, **Powers** admitted that he conspired to distribute between 50 and 200 grams of methamphetamine between as early as Nov. 11, 2003, and March 4, 2005, in Jasper County.

**Powers'** sentencing hearing is scheduled to take place on Oct. 7, 2005. Under federal statutes, **Powers** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to life in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million.

The co-defendants were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 30, 2005, in Springfield.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robyn L. McKee. It was investigated by the Jasper County Drug Task Force, the Joplin, Mo., Police Department, the Carthage, Mo., Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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